



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, from 9:05 am to 12:05 pm
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a list of acronyms is provided at the end of the document

ATTENDEES:

Work Group members and alternates present, and the organizations and caucuses they represent:

Cami Apfelbeck (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments; **Jess Archer** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Abby Barnes** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Fred Bergdolt** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Jenee Colton** (King Co), Local Governments; **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments and the PSEMP Steering Committee Chair; **Shana Joy** (WSCC), Agriculture; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Ben Parrish** (Covington), Local Governments; **Andy Rheaume** (Redmond), Local Governments; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments.

Attending by phone: **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Zack Holt** (WSDOT), **Bob Johnston** (US Navy), **Nat Kale** (Ecology), **Lincoln Loehr** (retired).

Work Group staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), SWG Staff; **Brandi Lubliner** (Ecology), RSMP Coordinator.

WORK GROUP SELECTS NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The meeting began with work group members and staff acknowledging Jim Simmonds' exemplary service as Chair for the past six-plus years. Members voted among nominees Cami Apfelbeck (4 votes), Ben Parrish (3 votes), and Andy Rheaume (4 votes) and then selected Cami in a close runoff vote (6-5). Abby Barnes was unopposed for Vice Chair. Many thanks to Ben and Andy for being willing to serve in the Chair position. Congratulations and many thanks to Cami and Abby for your coming two years of service!

WORK GROUP FINALIZES "RSMP LESSONS LEARNED" DOCUMENT

In the process of overseeing the creation and launch of the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) the Stormwater Work Group (SWG) has observed that many things have worked well and others have not worked well. In making these observations the SWG and its subcommittees also have some ideas as to how to implement the RSMP more efficiently and effectively. Although the SWG recommended that there not be an "opt-out" receiving water monitoring provision in the permits, observations about including and implementing this option in the permits are also included.

The purpose of the document is to capture these observations and ideas to date, and share them with others interested in learning about and from our process. It is not a set of formal work group "Recommendations" for setting future RSMP priorities or for shaping the next round of permits. It is a living document that we will continue to build on.

Work group members proposed a number of edits to improve the draft and all present were comfortable sharing it via the SWG Reporter. The SWG Communication Subgroup will review an introductory paragraph that will be added to help readers understand the context for the document.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT ANALYSIS OF PHASE I PERMITTEES' DISCHARGE MONITORING

In the last permit cycle, Phase I permittees were required to monitor stormwater discharges to characterize specific land uses. It was a significant, expensive data collection effort by those eight permittees. Nat Kale, one of the report authors, presented the findings of Ecology's analysis of the data. Nat's presentation will be posted along with this meeting summary at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>. The compiled and cleaned up data set is available for further analysis; so are the scripts used to analyze the data for this report.

UPDATES ON RSMP IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT

The PRO-Committee last met February 3 and will meet again in mid April. There is a lot going on that RSMP Coordinator Brandi Lubliner is shepherding well. The PRO-Committee is reviewing SOWs for all agreements and modifications.

Streams status and trends: The committee is working to compile the QAPP addendum. King County's contract was expanded to reflect their increased effort. A total of 92 sites have been confirmed for sampling, 60 of which are being sampled for monthly water quality. The RSMP has budgeted for 100 sites for the sediment chemistry and benthos sampling taking place this summer. Work group members asked Brandi to enlist USGS, if they have staff available, to identify and confirm eight more sites to fill out the 100. Perhaps 20 more sites would need to be visited.

Deliverables for streams and effectiveness studies are being posted on Ecology's RSMP web pages at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp.html>.

Upcoming contracting: The SOW for WDFW to implement the RSMP mussel monitoring will be on its way to the PRO-Committee soon, and site confirmation will take place in May-June. SOWs for two more effectiveness studies – bioretention hydrology and business inspection – and the first SIDIR activity will also go to the PRO-Committee soon.

New PRO-Committee member: work group members confirmed Theresa Thurlow as a permittee representative.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT WSDOT EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

WSDOT has two sets of required effectiveness studies: for facilities and for road runoff treatment BMPs. Fred Bergdolt shared some details of WSDOT's plans for monitoring BMP enhancements at three facilities near Spokane, Lakewood, and Olympia. He has sent the draft proposals to the Roads and Highways Subgroup for review and comments. WSDOT will involve the subgroup earlier in the process of coming up with highway runoff BMP effectiveness studies and will keep the SWG informed of their progress.

TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT SWG REPORTER

Our last SWG Reporter went out in January 2015. These brief (1-page max) updates on the RSMP and other SWG efforts are posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/reporter.html>. They are intended to go out in the couple of weeks following each work group meeting, so they are not quarterly. Some local government caucus members expressed a preference for getting RSMP quarterly reports directly from their permit managers. The quarterly reports are posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/admin.html>. Topics for the next issue:

- Lessons learned will shape recommendations for future monitoring and permit requirements
- SWG encourages permittees to submit SIDIR data in excel spreadsheet format
- RSMP mussel monitoring sites will be confirmed in May-June
- Next RSMP quarterly report due out in mid-April; deliverables are coming in and posted on web
- New chair and vice chair selected; join our effort
- Link to stormwater discharge monitoring report; perhaps announce upcoming webinar

UPDATES FROM OUR SUBGROUPS AND ON OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO OUR WORK

Work group members are encouraged to contact Shana Joy of WSCC at sjoy461@ecy.wa.gov if you are interested in participating in or receiving emails related to the Agricultural Runoff Subgroup. They will reconvene on March 13.

The PSEMP Steering Committee discussed funding models and citizen science at its meeting yesterday. They will hear about the Lower Columbia monitoring program and PNAMP tools at their April meeting.

PSEMP staff met last week and discussed work group contributions to a regular PSEMP newsletter update similar to the SWG Reporter. The SWG will also be asked to weigh in on which vital sign indicators are best for stormwater.

BEST WISHES TO KIT PAULSEN

Work group members send best wishes to Kit for a successful surgery and a speedy recovery!

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

At all of our meetings, we will:

- Hear feedback from the PRO-Committee on RSMP implementation,
- Hear from our subgroups about the status of implementing our current work plan,
- Hear from the PSEMP Steering Committee and other PSEMP workgroups, and
- Determine messages and timing for the next SWG Reporter issue

At our next meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 from **9:00 am to 1:00 pm** at the USGS Office in Tacoma, we will also:

- Hear findings of the USFWS RSMP Effectiveness Study of bioretention toxicity reduction
- Hear about the Salmon Recovery Monitoring Work Group's indicator selection process for Chinook
- Hear about the findings of WSDA's survey of non-agricultural usage, and
- Discuss PSP vital sign indicators related to stormwater

Please note the extended hour proposed for our June meeting. Meetings for the remainder of 2015 are scheduled on September 16 and November 18. Please put these dates on your calendars as well.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS MEETING SUMMARY:

IDDE – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
PNAMP – Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
PRO-Committee – Pooled Resources Oversight Committee
PSEMP – Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program
QAPP – Quality Assurance Project Plan
RSMP – Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program
SIDIR – Source Identification Information Repository
SOW – Scope of Work
SWG – Stormwater Work Group
USEPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS – U.S. Geological Survey
WDNR – Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
WSCC – Washington State Conservation Commission
WSDOT – Washington Dept. of Transportation